

## SEVEN CALIFORNIA WING CADETS ENTER MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES THIS YEAR

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – Seven Cadets from the California Wing are entering military service academies this year.

Five Cadets from Group 7 have entered the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this summer. Two cadets from Northern California have entered the U.S. Air Force Academy.

This is the first time in the history of Group 7 this many cadets have entered service academies at one time, Lt. Col. Hugh Cahill said. Cahill, the Group 7 Commander, oversees ten Civil Air Patrol Squadrons in Orange and San Diego counties.

“Five cadets from the same group, that’s unheard of,” Cahill said.

“Acceptance into any of the United States' military service academies is an accomplishment in itself, but having this many from a single group make it even more unique” said Cahill.

“It’s rare that we see a half dozen cadets from an entire state going to the academies, but here in Group 7 we have five cadets going,” Cahill said.

Cadet Col. Kyle McClure of Escondido; Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Natasha Marakowski of Fullerton; Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Mackie of Huntington Beach; and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Justin Miller of Dana Point all received appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Cadet Col. Brian Jensen of San Diego received an appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point, in New York State.

McClure, who graduated from Escondido High School, will major in physics at the U.S. Air Force Academy and ultimately wants to become an Air Force pilot. McClure, a member of the Civil Air Patrol for eight years, served as a Flight Commander and the Cadet Commander of the Skyhawks Composite Squadron 47 in Oceanside, near San Diego.

McClure is a recipient of the most prestigious award in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program, the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, named after the first U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff. The Spaatz award, earned by less than one percent of all Civil Air Patrol Cadets, is awarded after passing a rigorous four-part examination covering aerospace education, leadership, a personal essay, and a physical fitness test.

Marakowski, who graduated from Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, will study architectural design at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Marakowski, a member of the Civil Air Patrol for four years, served in multiple leadership positions in the Civil Air Patrol, and was recently the Cadet Commander of the Fullerton Composite Squadron 56, south of Los Angeles.

Marakowski's interest in the U.S. Air Force academy began four years ago, before she began her first year of high school, when she set a goal to attend the nation's top military service academy.

Mackie, a member of the Civil Air Patrol for four years, graduated from Huntington Beach High School in 2004 and recently attended Golden West College, also in Huntington Beach. Mackie will study military strategic studies at the U.S. Air Force Academy and ultimately wants to train as an Air Force aviator. Mackie was the First Sergeant of the Saddleback Composite Squadron 68, in nearby Costa Mesa.

Miller, a graduate of Santa Margarita High School, in Rancho Santa Margarita will study political science at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Miller, a Civil Air Patrol member for the past two years, was the First Sergeant of the Skyhawks Composite Squadron 47, in Oceanside.

Miller was also the Squadron 47 color guard commander. Under Miller's leadership, the squadron color guard won numerous honors in local, state, regional, and national competitions.

Jensen graduated from Mira Mesa High School in San Diego and will study behavioral psychology with an emphasis in leadership studies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Jensen, a member of the Civil Air Patrol San Diego Cadet Squadron 144 for six years, was California Wing's 2004 cadet officer of the year.

Like McClure, Jensen also received the highest award in Civil Air Patrol's cadet program, the General Carl A. Spaatz award.

Two of the seven cadets from the California Wing attending military service academies this year are from Northern California; Cadet Capt. Gregory Magram from San Jose, and Cadet Capt. Trevor Johnson from Sacramento.

Magram, a member of the Civil Air Patrol for five years, graduated in 2004 from Lincoln High School in San Jose, near San Francisco, and recently attended nearby De Anza College. Magram will study behavioral sciences at the U.S. Air Force Academy with a minor in Arabic language studies.

Magram, who also aspires to become an Air Force pilot, was Cadet Commander of the Civil Air Patrol John J. Montgomery Cadet Squadron 36 at Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose.

Johnson, a three-year member of the Civil Air Patrol, graduated from Rio Americano High School in Sacramento and will study astrophysics at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Johnson served as the Cadet Executive Officer of the Sacramento Composite Squadron 14 and wants to make the Air Force his career, including training later as a flight navigator.

Col. Virginia Nelson, the California Wing Commander, couldn't be more pleased, or more excited, for these cadets who have achieved so much.

"California Wing for years has had an outstanding training program for our cadets and we are all excited to see these cadets enter the academies and feel the cadet training they received

will continue to benefit them in the years to come,” Nelson said. “We look forward to seeing them progress through the academies and in their military careers.”

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